

To the Energy and Technology Committee:

Re: HB 5427

Shared solar allows for cleaner energy consumption and enables those who may not be good candidates for solar projects to share the benefits of solar produced energy. Unfortunately The National Renewable Energy Laboratory estimates that almost half the homes and businesses in the U.S. either can't or won't adopt solar power.

I am one of those homeowners. I live in a hundred year old house surrounded by trees as old or older. Sharing solar would be an opportunity to share in the economic benefits of solar while helping the environment. According to the Energy Information Agency, CT consumers pay the third highest electricity rates in the nation.

Why are you holding back solar in Connecticut by implementing a pilot program? According to the DOE website there are already 90 shared solar projects in 25 States, with a total capacity of more than 80 megawatts. 14 States passed legislation to enable shared solar.

Is this not enough "pilot programs" to prove that it works? Why not create a bill that would authorize shared solar immediately?

In Paris last December the world's leaders made it clear that we have little time for pilot programs if we are going to get this right.

Shared solar would also bring the jobs of the future to our state. The Department of Energy website says that growing the community solar market could increase PV growth of "5.5 to 11 GW in 2015-2020." Connecticut workers could benefit from this growth. Frankly, it makes us look backward denying this kind of job growth at a time when Connecticut desperately needs jobs- and even more backward denying ourselves a clean energy future.

Please give Connecticut's homeowners, businesses and workers the opportunity to make a difference in our lives and those of our children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Shawn Anne O'Sullivan
Fairfield, CT
February 28, 2016

